Demographic Spotlight

A Profile of Interprovincial Employees (IPEs) in Alberta – 2012 Update

While Alberta is currently experiencing an economic downturn, its exceptional job growth and high wages drew thousands of people from across the country to work in the province in 2012 (the latest year data were available). According to data recently acquired from Statistics Canada, the number of IPEs in Alberta expanded from almost 66,000 in 2002 to about 130,000 in 2012, slightly below the all-time peak of approximately 132,000 IPEs in 2008 and 18% higher than in 2011. While these IPEs came from across Canada, the primary sources of 2012 growth were Ontario (+27% year-over-year), Atlantic Canada (+23%) and British Columbia (+20%) (Chart 1).

As the number of IPEs received by Alberta grew, the total amount of labour income earned by IPEs grew from $1.1 billion in 2002 to $4.6 billion in 2012 (in 2002 constant dollars). By region, IPEs originating from British Columbia accounted for the largest share of real labour income in 2012 (35%), followed by Atlantic Canada (28%) and Saskatchewan (16%) (Chart 2). Overall, from 2002 to 2012, IPEs received by Alberta earned $27.5 billion in labour income (in 2002 constant dollars).

Alberta has consistently been a net receiver of IPEs by a significant amount but has also sent out thousands of IPEs to other regions. Between 2002 and 2012, the number of Alberta-based IPEs increased from 41,677 to 56,648. The top destinations were British Columbia (35% of Alberta-based IPEs in 2012), Ontario (25%) and Saskatchewan (21%).

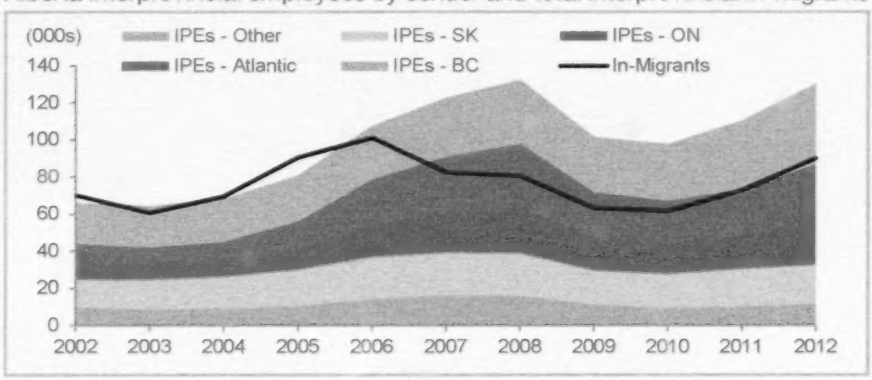
As a result of substantial oil and gas investments, the number of IPEs working in the construction and energy sectors surged, increasing from around 25% of IPEs in Alberta to about 40% by 2008 and remaining similar to those levels through 2012.

There were also noticeable differences in the occupational profile of IPEs by sex. Male IPEs were concentrated primarily in the goods sector, and females in the service sector, especially in the accomodation and food industry. In 2012, nearly 40% of all male IPEs worked in either the construction or energy sectors. In contrast, 22% of female IPEs were in accomodation and food services, and another 16% in wholesale and retail trade.

For a more comprehensive analysis and definition see the *2015 release*.

Chart 1: Alberta drew thousands of IPEs in 2012

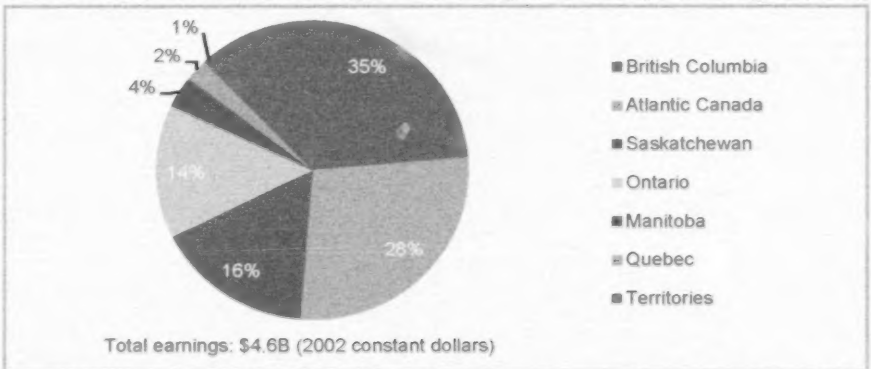
Alberta interprovincial employees by sender and total interprovincial in-migrants



Source: Statistics Canada. 2016. Special tabulation - Interprovincial Workforce Database

Chart 2: IPEs from BC and Atlantic Canada received over half of earnings

Share of labour income earned by IPEs working in Alberta by home region (2012)



Source: Statistics Canada. 2016. Special tabulation - Interprovincial Workforce Database

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September 27, 2016

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